

King George County Wireless Broadband Project

- In November, 2005, Board of Supervisors charged the County Administrator with developing a strategy that would bring wireless broadband to those areas of King George County not currently served by broadband.
- Wireless Broadband in King George County = A Three-Legged Stool
 1. It is considered to be a “utility” for County’s residents and businesses.
 2. It will be integrated into County government operations to serve schools, law enforcement, fire/rescue, water/wastewater services, libraries, and other governmental operations.
 3. It will be used as an economic development tool to recruit entrepreneurs and knowledge workers, particularly those associated with the military research and development at the Naval Surface Warfare Center located in the Dahlgren area of King George County.
- In March, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved a business model that uses the enabling legislation of the Virginia Wireless Service Authority Act. The King George County Wireless Authority (WA) would form a public-private partnership with a Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP).
- The WA would allow the WISP access to its existing County aerial assets (towers, water tanks, buildings) and property holdings at a minimal cost to deploy wireless equipment and backhaul connections. The WA would also use its debt financing authority under the Act to assist with the capitalization of the project. Essentially, the WA’s intent is to reduce the capital cost of the WISP for entry into the King George County market. This is similar in concept to the how rural electrification was accomplished in the early 20th century.
- Under a contract with the WA, the WISP would develop, maintain, and manage a fee-based network providing broadband service residences and businesses in the County.
- Once the existing assets have been utilized, the WA and WISP in a second phase would partner in the construction of additional aerial assets and other related capital expenditures to provide wireless broadband service to areas of the County not served in the first phase.
- In October, 2006, the King George County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance creating the King George County Wireless Authority. The State Corporation Commission issued the WA its charter in November, 2006.
- A Request for Qualifications was issued in January, 2007, and four (4) proposals from private firms were submitted to the WA for consideration. The WA selected the top ranked firm in April, 2007.
- From April, 2007, to date (8/07) the WA, the County Administrator, and the candidate firm have been developing a contract for the project. The contract has not been finalized at this time, and thereby, it is not available for public dissemination. It will be available for distribution after it has been executed by the WA and the WISP.
- Attached is a copy of the Request for Qualifications which provides detail on the concept of the project.